

Shelby County Fire Department
Headquarters
1075 Mullins Station Rd. Bldg. "C", 2nd floor
Memphis, TN 38134



******* EVENT NOTIFICATION *******

Event Date: November 13th, 2014

Shelby County Resident Meets Dispatcher and Responders Who Saved His Life Four Months Ago

A cardiac event that hit the Hudson family of southeast Shelby County last July had closure today in a dramatic meeting at Shelby County Fire Station Number 62. The 26th of July 2014, was a very average day for fire department Dispatcher Dennis Lewis. People were calling at the usual rate of a call about every 45 minutes or so with the routine kind of priority situations that, through the years Lewis had become accustomed to. About halfway through his shift the lines again came alive, and in a moment he was connected to Mrs. Tuesday Hudson who was frantically crying out for help. Her husband Gregory had tragically and suddenly collapsed in front of her - his life ebbing away with each passing second.

Dennis through his experience, temperament and training relied on his skill to begin pulling vital information from Mrs. Hudson who didn't even realize that she was, in a way, being interviewed. Without missing a single item, Dispatcher Lewis gleaned details from her in mere seconds that assured him that they were dealing with the potential loss of life through a serious heart attack. Other dispatchers in the room with him harvested the necessary information required to start the wheels rolling on the nearest emergency equipment - including an advanced life support pumper, med squad, and an ambulance. And it was during that time that Lewis, like all dispatchers at the SCFD, would have to basically reach through the telephone to take control of the situation. He was going to have to teach this woman to render life-saving CPR for her husband and the dispatcher was not going to take "no" for an answer.

While responders from the area rushed to the scene, Lewis gave very specific and detailed instructions to Mrs. Hudson with just enough finesse and force to get her to properly respond to each and every item that he instructed her to perform. So in front of their two grand-daughters, who happened to be there that day, Hudson found the exact placement of her hands and began the necessary compressions to keep her husband's heart moving blood through his entire body. And, Lewis reminded her, she was not to stop until the Paramedics not only got to the house but reached his side so they could take over.

As the vehicles squealed to a stop in front of their home, Paramedics rushed inside carrying defibrillators, medicines and other needed equipment to care for Mr. Hudson lying on the floor. AED leads were attached and three shocks were delivered – basically bringing him back from the brink.

Forward four months and today, the Hudson's arrived to meet face to face for the first time, the very individuals that near devastation brought together. There were photos; Mrs. Hudson brought *her* fire fighters a meal, there were stories – one of the grand-daughters read a poem to the firemen that she wrote, and there were tears of gratitude as a special afternoon went on. "We don't get to do this as often as we'd like." one fire fighter remarked. And as bystanders in attendance left to return to their duties, the main players in this wonderful story remained at the fire house getting to know one another – new friends – maybe even closer than that – new family!

Photos next page.

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Mrs. Hudson hugs Shelby County Fire Department dispatcher Dennis Lewis as they meet for the first time.



Mr. Hudson says a long awaited Hello to firefighter Torrian Lewis who was among the Paramedics and responders who kept him alive that fateful day.

Surrounded by AMR ambulance employees, SCFD dispatchers and fire fighters from Shelby County the Hudson family poses for a memorable photograph with the newest members of their fire fighting / life-saving family.

